

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is the residual of products used in the home which exhibit poisonous, combustible, explosive and/or flammable properties. When items such as paint, gasoline, cleaning chemicals, lighter fluid, and propane tanks are thrown away, the environment, sanitation and landfill workers are put in danger.

Toxic: Poisonous or lethal when ingested, touched or inhaled

Flammable & Explosive: Easily ignites

Corrosive: Eats away materials and living tissue by chemical action like an automobile battery

Reactive: Creates an explosion or produces deadly vapors

Explosive: May explode when exposed to heat or other substances; may also be toxic to humans or other living things.

Some chemicals are disposed of improperly and can end up in the groundwater and rivers and the water we drink.

What are some ways of improper disposal?

Pouring them down the drain

Pouring them onto the ground

Pouring them into storm sewers

Putting them into your regular garbage

KIDS, THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS.

What do I look for when reading the labels on chemicals?

- "Danger" or "Poison"
- "Caution" and "Warning"
- "Keep out of Reach of Children"

Where can I get rid of household hazardous waste?

BVSWMA offers a Household Hazardous Waste & Computer collection twice a year. Once in the Spring and once in the Fall for residents in the entire Brazos Valley, that means residents in 7 different counties. Isn't that awesome?? The collection is free to all residents. You can call the HHW Hotline at (979) 764-3809 or visit the website for the next scheduled collection at www.cstx.gov/bvswma.

Things to Remember...

Household hazardous waste should never be thrown into the trash, washed down the drain, or poured onto the ground. **Improper handling or disposal of hazardous chemicals can result in serious accidents.**

Never leave hazardous household items around children.

Do not dispose of products in the trash, on the ground, or in storm drains.

Do not remove labels, and do not remove products from their original containers.

Do not refill empty containers unless the label recommends it.

How can I make safe household cleaners?

Less Toxic Cleaning Alternatives

BATHROOM & LAUNDRY

Mold & Mildew

1 tsp. Borax

3 tbs. vinegar

2 cups hot water

Mix together in a spray bottle.

Shake vigorously to mix. Spray on, let sit, scrub, rinse.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Baking soda and vinegar

Sprinkle baking soda into the

Bowl, then drizzle with vinegar and scour with a toilet brush.

Tub & Tile Cleaner

1/3 cup baking soda

1/3 cup Borax

1 tsp. vegetable-oil based soap

Mix and add enough water to make a paste. Apply with sponge or scrubbie. Rinse well after use.

Laundry Bleach

1 tbs. cornstarch

1 pint cold water

Place in spray bottle and shake to dissolve cornstarch.

KITCHEN

All Purpose Cleaner

1 tsp. vegetable-based liquid soap

Squeeze of lemon or splash of vinegar

1 quart warm water

Mix and apply. Wipe clean.

Plain Castile Soap

10-15 drops of your favorite essential oils for added disinfecting power!!

(Ex. Lemon, rosemary, orange)

Mix together and use when washing dishes by hand.

LIVING ROOM

Glass Cleaner

1/8 cup vinegar

1 cup water

Mix in a spray bottle. Shake and apply.

Oven Cleaners

Small box of baking soda

A few drops of vegetable oil-based liquid soap

A mild abrasive pad

Sprinkle some water over bottom of oven.

Cover with baking soda. Let sit, preferably overnight. Wipe with pad. After bottom is cleaned, put a few drops of liquid soap on a sponge and wash.

Parents Remember...

Buy only what you need (Reduce)

Donate unused to Habitat for Humanity or some other organizations (Reuse)

Unused portions can be taken to your local Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Take used motor oil, cell phones, batteries, and CD's to be Recycled

If you are not able to recycle ore reuse hazardous chemicals please store products safely until the next hazardous waste collection.